

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Additionally, I do not see how this cannot be a violation of Federal election rules. I know you are the FCC and not the FEC, but shouldn't Sinclair be required to provide equal air time to the other candidate? I know that in California, they wouldn't show Terminator movies during the gubernatorial campaign because they felt that other candidates would sue for equal air time. Anyway, forcing stations to show such a partisan piece so close inside, of questionable factuality, so close to an election is just wrong!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.